



MIMM BITES

A NEWSLETTER OF MCGILL'S MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

NOVEMBER 2012

Dear Microbiology and Immunology members,

Our academic year is well underway: major grant deadlines are gone (for now), midterms passed, and decision time and finals are around the corner!

Here are few important initiatives to watch out for this upcoming month:

RESEARCH

MDTC

Our department is leading the establishment of the McGill Microbiome and Disease Tolerance Centre (MDTC), an advanced research and education centre focused on functional microbiomics. MDTC will act as a multidisciplinary hub for scholars and trainees interested in studying the mechanisms used by commensal and low pathogenicity microorganisms to live harmoniously on our bodies and how these mechanisms promote health and prevent disease.

MDTC is an initiative that involves 25 scientists, including colleagues from Université de Montréal and McMaster University, and from 3 McGill's Faculties (Medicine, Science, Agricultural and Environment Sciences) and 5 academic departments.

Cell Sorting At the Duff

A brand new FACS Aria III cell sorter funded by the Madrenas CRC-CFI has been installed in room 615 at the Duff Building. This state of the art unit is now operational. Ms. Camille Stegen, manager of the Flow Cytometry & Cell sorting facility will be available to address your sorting needs. You can contact her at tel.(514) 398- 8969 or email: camille.stegen@mcgill.ca

PICTURE OF THE MONTH WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION- OCTOBER 2012



Immuno Montreal Happy Hour



The Department of Microbiology and Immunology hosted the October Happy Hour for Immuno Montreal. In this occasion, our junior faculty members Drs. Jörg Fritz and Irah King presented their most recent work and led an exciting discussion for trainees and faculty from McGill, UdeM and Armand Frappier. Good job Jörg & Irah! We look forward to future Immuno Montreal happy hours.

Publications of the month

From the Matlashewski's lab:

Determinants of visceral leishmaniasis disease. McCall L-I, Zhang WW, Matlashewski G. *PLoS Pathogens* in press.

The role of cytosolic glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase in visceral organ infection by *Leishmania donovani*. Zhang WW, McCall L-I, Matlashewski G. *Eukaryotic Cell* in press.

From the Madrenas's lab:

Stomatin-like Protein 2 Deficiency in T Cells Is Associated with Altered Mitochondrial Respiration and Defective CD4+ T Cell Responses. Christie DA, Mitsopoulos P, Blagih J, Dunn SD, St-Pierre J, Jones RG, Hatch GM, Madrenas *J. Immunol.* 2012 Nov 1;189(9):4349-60. doi: 10.4049/jimmunol.1103829. Epub 012 Oct 1.



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TEACHING

Undergraduate Program

Courses are well under way. We are now putting special attention to the redevelopment of our undergraduate lab courses. Under the leadership of Dr. James Coulton, the departmental undergraduate committee is working towards the establishment of innovative programs that will build on problem-based learning. An educational specialist, Dr. Claire Trottier (former M&I alumna) will facilitate this process. Stay tuned!

MISA

Our undergraduate students through their association (MISA) are putting the final touches in their new home: Duff Room 423. We all look forward to the opening ceremony!



SERVICE

Duff Redevelopment

We are proceeding with building redevelopment, being close to finalizing the functional and technical assessment of the building.

Duff Biobar Center

The Duff Biobar Centre is opened! This initiative provides direct access to reagents and supplies you need for your research with significant savings at zero shipping cost. Keep it in mind for your research needs and spread the word to your colleagues.



Banner Contest

A call for design contest for the departmental banner has been sent out. Do not forget to enter your creative designs. The winning banner comes with a fabulous coupon for a fancy dinner at RIDI! New deadline for submission: November 2/2012.

MIMM Movember Team



November is "a moustache month". As announced by Anthony Rainone, participants are encouraged to start growing a moustache on November 1st. proceeds will support two worthy causes (Men's Mental Health initiative and Prostate Cancer Research). To learn more, please visit <https://www.movember.com> or contact Anthony at anthony.rainone@mail.mcgill.ca

KUDOS

Congratulations to:

- E. Mason and I. Desloges for winning first and second price respectively in the Medical Sciences category at the Undergraduate Research Conference (URC) on October 4. Congratulations also to their supervisors Drs. Piccirillo and Gruenheid/LeMoual. You made us all proud of your research achievements.
- Dr. Quim Madrenas for being awarded a Tier I Canada Research Chair In Human Immunology and CFI funding.
- Dr. Greg Matlashewshi, Ms. Aghdas Zhamani, and Ms. Nathalie Croteau for 25 years of service at McGill and being awarded membership to the Quarter Century Club.
- Baby Breanna has arrived! it is with great pleasure we announce that Ms. Elisa Torres had her baby girl on Tuesday, October 30. Both the mother and the baby are doing good. Congratulations Elisa!



You are all encouraged to submit any news, pictures, or items that you want to include to our monthly newsletter. We will be happy to share them with the rest of the department. You can email them to Ms. Ireini Ghobri at ireini.ghobri@mcgill.ca

Have a great No(Mo)vember,
Joaquin (Quim) Madrenas